(c) the extent to which these steps have helped to solve the Sri Lankan Tamil ethnic problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) The Sri Lanka President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene paid a visit to New Delhi from the 1st to 3rd June, 1985 at the invitation of the Prime Minister. Both sides agreed that immediate steps needed to be taken to defuse the ethnic situation and create a proper climate for progress towards a political settlement acceptable to all concerned. It was also agreed that all forms of violence should abate and finally cease and every effort would be made for restoration of normalcy in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, which would be conducive to the return of Sri Lanka refugees from India to Sri Lanka.

(b) Following the Summit meeting, discussions were held on June 15 and 16 between a team of Sri Lankan legal experts led by Mr. H. W. Jayewardene (brother of the Sri Lankan President) and the Attorney-General of India. During these discussions various Constitutional and legal aspects of the Sri Lanka Constitution were examined. The discussions were exploratory in nature, and were useful.

(c) These steps have helped in improving the climate for progress towards a political solution. On June 18 the Sri Lanka Government announced a cessation of hostilities between security forces and the Tamil militants. Later on July 8 talks were begun in Thimphu between a Sri Lanka Government delegation on the one hand and representatives of the TULF and Tamil militants organizations on the other.

Sarkaria Commission

363. SHRI L. GANESAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) when the Sarkaria Commission was constituted;

(b) the money spent so far for meeting the expenses of the Commission;

(c) what had been the attitude of each State Government towards the Commission; and

(d) by when the Commission is expected to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) The Commission was set up on June 9, 1983 and the expenditure incurred on the Commission upto June, 30, 1985 has been Rs. 55.92 lakhs.

(c) The attitude of the State Governments has by and large been positive and helpful.

(d) The term of the Commission has been extended upto June 30, 1986 by which date it expects to submit its report.

Restriction on Foreign Tourists visiting Sikkim

364. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any restrictions on foreign tourists visiting Sikkim, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what are the reasons for these restrictions; and

(c) how many people have applied for the permission and actually permitted during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) Sikkim is a